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PRIORITY

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POLTO 14.

NAC meeting, November 19, 1958-Berlin.

German permanent representative gave account of exchange between German Ambassador to Moscow and Gromyko November 17 when former delivered Federal Republic reply to Soviet September 18. Account followed lines first four paragraphs of Department's 1809 to Paris (sent Bonn 1024, Berlin 241, London 4891, Moscow 813). German permanent representative concluded that optimism he expressed in November 17 NAC meeting that critical stage might not be reached soon did not appear to be justified by facts.

In response to Spaak query as to whether responsible powers were studying actions that might be taken re Berlin, UK stated three western powers were pressing forward with their consultation and were waiting Soviet statement re Berlin which Krushchev said he would make. Indicated UK still feels Soviets will do nothing rash but probably were trying to keep atmosphere tense in hope of getting high level talks on Germany. Cautioned against NATO governments helping Soviets to build up crisis atmosphere by rushing into action. France, however, expressed view situation was critical and allies must anticipate situation that would obtain when Soviets transferred responsibilities to GDR. At present, however, three responsible powers could only consider possible measures that might be taken. US stated had nothing to add to what

Ambassador Burgess said

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-2- POLTO 1362, November 19, 4 p.m., from Paris.

Ambassador Burgess said Monday but US was watching situation closely and keeping closely in touch with other responsible powers.

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